THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No guidelines have been issued specifically for Telemarketing companies. However, Indian Telegraph Rules (ITR) 427 takes care in general that no telephone issued for annoying/indecent/obscene nature of messages/communications. Copy of the extracts of ITR 427 is enclosed as Statement. (*See* below).

(c) No such case has been brought to the notice of the Department of Telecom.

(d) and (e) Sir, ITR 427 takes care of such eventualities.

Statement

427. Illegal or improper use of telephone.— A subscriber shall be personally responsible for the use of his telephone. No telephone shall be used to disturb or irritate any persons or for the transmission of any message or communication which is of an indecent or obscene nature or is calculated to annoy any person or to disrupt the maintenance of public order or any other manner contrary to any provision of law.

Enhancement of Telephone Exchange Capacity in Andhra Pradesh

*277. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans for expansion of telephone exchange capacity in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the waiting list for telephones in both the above districts;

(c) the schedule for making telephones available on demand in these two districts; and

(d) the proposed Exchange expansion and capacity in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The plans for expansion of telephone exchange capacity in West Godavari and East Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh during 1998-99 is as follows:

District	Capacity Addition
East Godavari	45934
West Godavari	46800

(b) The waiting list for Telephones in West Godavari and East Godavari districts as on 31.10.98 is given under:

District	Total Waiting List
East Godavari	17646
West Godavari	19940

(c) As per 9th Plan proposed by DOT it is planned to provide telephone on demand by March 2002.

(d) Plans for the expansion of exchange and capacity addition are drawn up on yearly basis depending upon waiting list and demand. Such plans for the next two years have not been drawn up so far.

एम॰टी॰वी॰ द्वारा राष्ट्रीय ध्वज का प्रतीक चिन्ह के रूप में प्रयोग किया जाना

*278. प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री 3 दिसम्बर, 1998 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 583 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि राष्ट्रीय ध्वज का प्रतीक चिन्ह के रूप में प्रयोग किए जाने पर एम॰टी॰वी॰ के विरुद्ध सरकार कब तक और क्या कार्यवाही करना चाहेगी?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद महाजन): दिनांक 3.12.98 का राज्य सभा अतारांकित प्रश्न संख्या 583 एम॰टी॰वी॰ या राष्ट्रीय ध्वज के प्रयोग से नहीं बल्कि प्रसारण विधेयक पर विधान से संबंधित है। तथापि, यह पाया गया था कि पूर्व में एम॰टी॰वी॰ अपने प्रतीक चिन्ह (लोगो) में राष्ट्रीय ध्वज के तीन रंगों का उपयोग कर रहा था जिसे उन्होंने इस बारे में उनका ध्यान आकर्षित करने पर बंद कर दिया था। अत: इस मंत्रालय द्वारा उनके विरुद्ध आगे कोई कार्रवाई अपेक्षित नहीं है।

Website Facilities

*279. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether facilities to host the websites within the country are available;

(b) if so, the names of the organisations who have the hosting facilities in India; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider licensing such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) VSNL is providing the web hosting facilities. In addition, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and ERNET also offer such facilities to Educational/Research and Government Sector.

(c) As per the new Internet policy, Government is issuing licences to private companies to work as Internet Service Providers. With these licences, the companies can host websites also if so they desire.

Hike in Postal Rates

*280. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the postal rates of stationery have been raised w.e.f. 31st August, 1998, to the extent of 100% and 150% in some cases;

(b) if so, the justification therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider their earlier decision to give relief to the poor people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The percentage of increase in rates of eight postal services effected from 31st August, 1998 ranges from 20% to 150% as per details given below:

(i)	Letter Card	-	50%
(ii)	Letter	-	50%
(iii)	Parcel	-	25%
(iv)	Registration	-	20%
(v)	Insurance	-	25-50%
(vi)	Competition Post Card	-	50%
(vii)	Acknowledgement	-	100%
(viii)	Money Order Form	-	150%

These rates were revised in order to meet partly the increased cost of operation of various postal services requiring considerable subsidy from the general budget. The working expenses of the Department of Posts has increased substantially after the revision of the pay scales with effect from 1.1.1996. It is estimated that even after these revision of tariff the revenue will not be adequate to meet the cost of operation in respect of majority of postal services.

(c) There is no proposal to reconsider the rates revised w.e.f. 31st August, 1998.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) above.

(e) The impact of revision of rates indicated in reply to parts (a) & (b) is likely to be minimal on poor people as no revision of tariff has been effected in the case of Postcards and in the rate of Money Order commission which are generally used by them.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Forewarning Regarding Shortage of Onions

2016. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Agriculture had received any report/information from the Ministry of Science and Technology or the Meteorological Department/Institute suggesting that there is a possibility of the failure of the onion crop due to unseasonal rains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Delay in Release of Assistance to Gujarat

2017. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be